

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 12, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has for nearly 70 years bolstered the security of the United States through its success as an intergovernmental transatlantic military alliance. The May 25 ceremony in Brussels was held to dedicate a memorial to the only time in NATO's history when Article 5 was invoked: after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Since then, our strongest allies have supported the United States in combating the terrorist threat that claimed so many innocent lives that day. Our friends and NATO allies acted in our common defense in invoking Article 5 and in doing so, have sacrificed much, including the lives of their own citizens.

As Members of Congress, we believe that if we are to be secure as a country in the face of terrorist and other threats, we must tackle these threats with the support of our allies. We also understand that the security of our allies is inextricably linked to our own security. The United States learned this lesson in World War II and should not be so foolhardy as to forget it now.

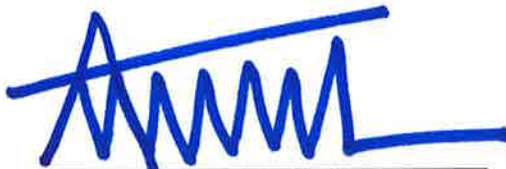
We face great insecurity here in the United States, and this same insecurity is shared by our NATO allies. Due to this shared threat environment, we must always be clear in signaling to our allies that we are a reliable partner in defending against the threats that affect us all.

We therefore write to you today to clearly convey that we as Members of Congress endorse the United States' commitment under NATO's Article 5. Doing so is a matter of national security and we encourage you in your role as Secretary of State, to be unwavering in your commitment to our allies and to most effectively promoting the security of the United States.

Sincerely,




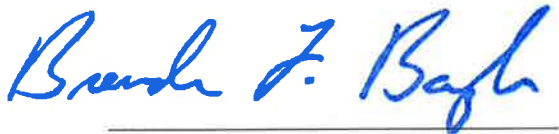
WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Ranking Member  
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on  
Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade



TED POE  
Chairman  
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on  
Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade

  
LOIS FRANKEL  
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